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Paul Votes Again to Abolish Death Tax

Washington, DC - Late Thursday afternoon, Congressman Ron Paul joined with 273 of his colleagues in voting to override the presidential veto of H.R. 8, the "Death Tax Elimination Act." Despite widespread public support for the measure, proponents could not garner the necessary votes to pass the legislation (2/3 of both the House and Senate must vote to override the veto). The final vote total was 274-157, indicating support in both parties for the estate tax repeal. Congressman Paul pledged to continue his efforts to end the estate tax in the next Congress. "The estate tax is immoral and counter-productive," Paul stated. "It amounts to government confiscation of an individual's property when he or she dies. Furthermore, it is a terrible form of double taxation. Americans pay federal and state income taxes on their wages throughout their lives. They pay income and capital gains taxes on money they save and invest. They pay sales taxes whenever they buy something. It is outrageous to tax them once again when they die, simply because they have worked hard and saved to create a legacy to pass on to their families." Estate taxes represent a very small portion of federal tax revenues (approximately 1.5%). The economic impact of the estate taxes, however, is widespread. Because of the complexity of the estate tax, Americans must spend millions every year on attorneys and accountants to minimize their tax burdens. It's a myth that only the rich are affected by estate taxes," Paul continued. "Virtually all economists agree that the tax discourages work, savings, and thrift. Less savings results in less capital formation, which reduces economic development. My office has received hundreds of letters and emails from individuals and small business owners in my district. These people are not 'rich,' but they have worked hard and saved to create an inheritance for their children. They are concerned that their children may have to sell the family farm or business simply to pay the estate tax bill. There is no justification for taxing these people once again simply because they have led productive lives." Paul remains optimistic that elimination of the estate tax will remain an issue in the next Congress. "While it's unfortunate that the administration vetoed the Act, I believe we will have greater support for an estate tax repeal in the coming year. My constituents and Americans across the country oppose the death tax. They understand that it's wrong to tax people simply because they worked hard and saved throughout their lives. I hope that the next administration understands how important the estate tax repeal is to American families."